

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-21 (canceled).

22. (currently amended) A digital contents distribution method for distributing digital contents in a digital contents distribution system including a content database center which stores digital content, a vending device which sells said digital content stored in said content database center, and a network which interconnects said content database center and said vending device to each other, said digital contents distribution method comprising the steps of:

selecting, by said vending device, digital contents desired by a user in response to user input, said vending device corresponding to each of a store included in a plurality of stores selling said digital contents;

when said selected digital contents is not saved in said store stores, and generating, by said vending device, a request for distribution of said selected digital content and sending said request to said content database center;

in response to request for distribution of selected digital content from said vending devices, generating, by said center-content database center, a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said selected digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing, by said center content database center, distribution of said selected digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule; and

selling, by said vending device, at each of said stores store, said selected a particular digital content selected by a customer to said user from said distributed selected digital contents.

Claim 23 (canceled).

24. (currently amended) A digital contents distribution method in accordance with claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

generating, by digitizing device, a digital content by digitizing an original content and transmitting, from said digitizing device to a recognition device, a request for confirmation of content of said digital content;

executing, by said recognition device, in response to said request, confirmation of said content of said digital content by determining whether said content of said digital content has been generated with error and transmitting, by said recognition device, a message indicating whether said content is to be recognized based on said determination; and

receiving, by said digitizing device, said message and accumulating aid content of said digital content if said content of said digital content has been recognized.

Claim 25 (canceled).

26. (currently amended) A digital contents distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a distribution control section for selecting digital contents, in response to requests, from stores selling said digital contents, for distribution of digital contents selected by a user at a vending device according to user inputs corresponding to each of a plurality of stores selling said digital contents, when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, generating, in response to said requests, a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said selected digital contents corresponding to said stores, and instructing distribution of said selected digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule; and

a sales section for selling, at each of said stores, a particular digital content selected by a customer from said distributed selected digital contents.

Claims 27 and 28 (canceled).

29. (currently amended) A computer readable medium storing a program for distributing digital contents in a digital contents distribution system including a content database center which stores digital content, a vending device which sells said digital content stored in said content database center, and a network which interconnects said content database center and said vending device to each

other, said program when executed causes said digital contents distribution system to perform the steps of:

selecting, by said vending device, digital contents desired by a user in response to user input, said vending device corresponding to each of a store included in a plurality of stores selling said digital contents;

when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, and generating, by said vending device, a request for distribution of said selected digital content and sending said request to said content database center;

in response to requests for distribution of selected digital contents from said vending devices, generating, by said content database center, a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said selected digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing, by said content database center, distribution of said selected digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule; and

selling, by said vending device, at said store ~~each of said stores, said a particular~~ selected digital content selected by a customer from said distributed selected digital contents to said user.

Claims 30 and 31 (canceled).

32. (currently amended) A program file storing a program for distributing digital contents in a digital contents distribution system including a content database center which stores digital content, a vending device which sells said digital content

stored in said content database center, and a network which interconnects said content database center and said vending device to each other, said program when executed causes said digital contents distribution system to perform the steps of:

selecting, by said vending device, digital contents desired by a user in response to user input, said vending device corresponding to each of a store included in a plurality of stores selling said digital contents;

when said selected digital contents is not saved in said stores, and generating, by said vending device, a request for distribution of said selected digital content and sending said request to said content database center;

in response to requests for distribution of selected digital contents from said vending devices generating, by said content database center, a distribution schedule for controlling distribution of said digital contents corresponding to said stores;

instructing, by said content database center, distribution of said selected digital contents to each of said stores according to said distribution schedule; and

selling, by said vending device, at each of said stores said store, a particular said selected digital content selected by a customer from said distributed selected digital contents to said user.

33. (new) A digital contents distribution method, comprising the steps of:

(a) creating, by the content database device, a distribution schedule for transmitting digital contents and their goods information to each of the distribution

management devices, with the digital contents being stored in the content database device;

(b) transmitting, by the content database device, the digital contents, their goods information and the distribution schedule from the content database device to each of the distribution management devices connected by a network to the content database device;

(c) storing, by each of the distribution management devices, the digital contents, their goods information and the distribution schedule in a storage of the particular distribution management device;

(d) transmitting, by each of the distribution management devices, the digital contents and their goods information thus stored to each of vending devices connected with the network according to the received distribution schedule;

(e) adding, by each of the vending devices, the digital contents and their goods information thus received to digital contents and their goods information already stored in a storage of the particular vending device;

(f) if a capacity of the storage of the vending device is insufficient to store the digital contents and their goods information thus received, removing, by the vending device, a part of the digital contents already stored from the storage, based on predetermined criteria, and then storing the digital contents thus received;

(g) presenting, by the customer, a desired digital content from among the goods information;

- (h) if the digital content selected by the customer is not stored in the storage, sending, by the vending device, a request for distribution of the digital content selected by the customer to the content database center;
- (i) receiving, by the content database center, the request sent from the vending device; and
- (j) in response to the request sent from the vending device performing steps (a) through (f).

34. (new) A digital control distribution method according to claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

- (k) storing, by the distribution management device, the digital content received from the content database center in its own storage, the received digital content being the digital content selected by the customer;
- (l) transmitting, by the distribution management device, the digital content selected by the customer from the distribution management device to the vending device;
- (m) storing, by the vending device, the received digital content selected by the customer in its own storage;
- (n) selling, by the vending device, the digital content selected by the customer to the customer; and
- (o) recording, by the vending device, sales information as to sales of the digital content.